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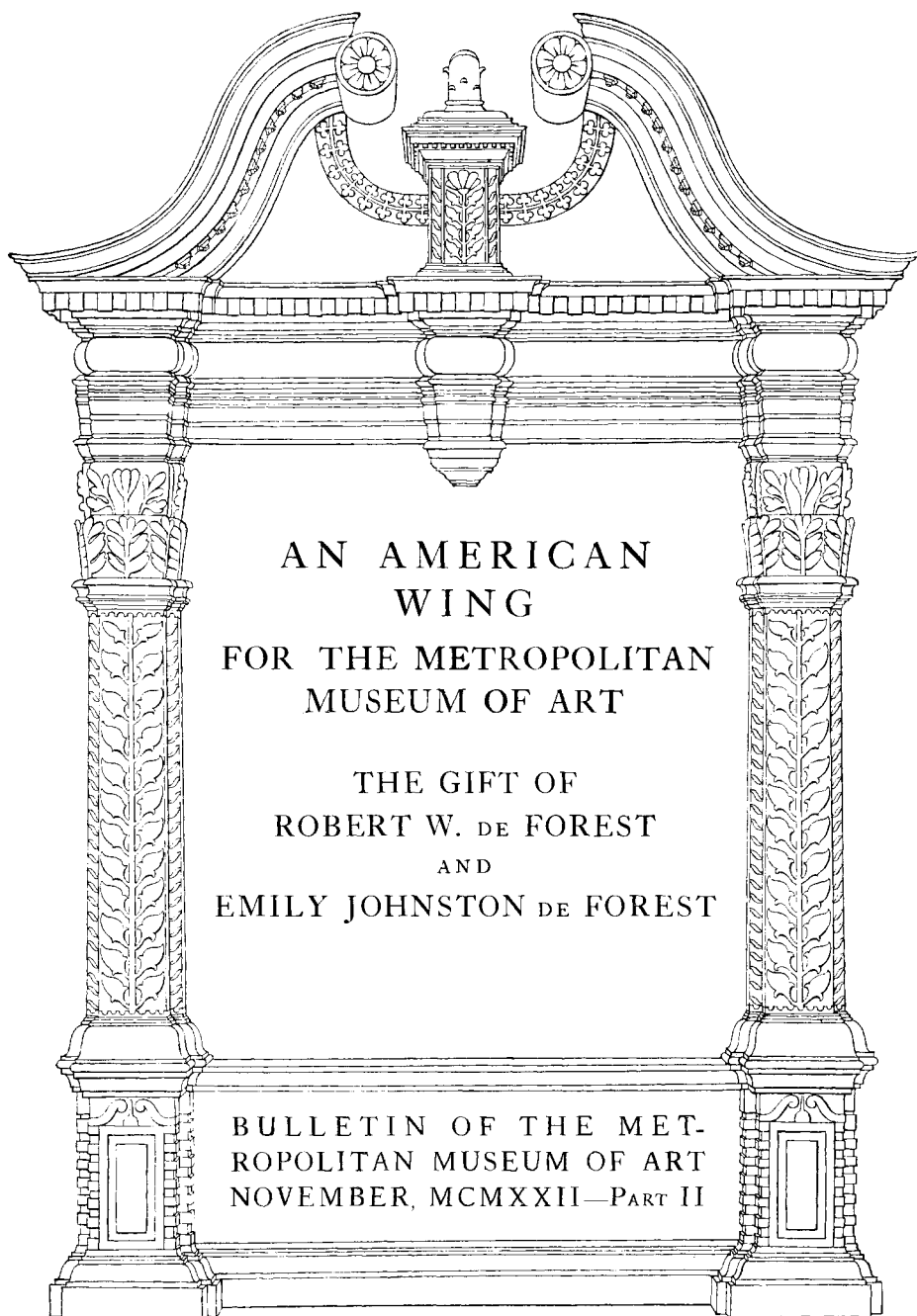
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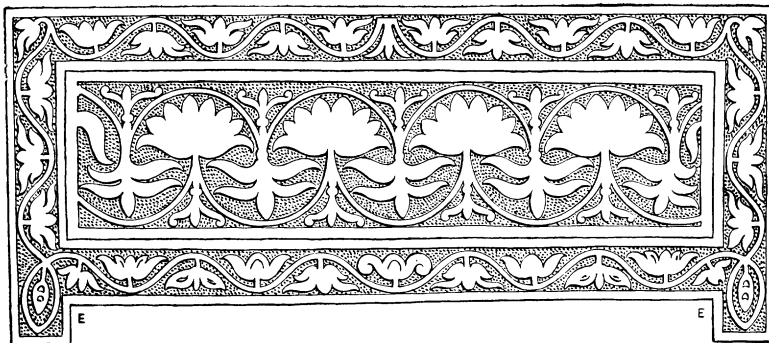
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A WING DEVOTED TO AMERICAN ART

THE Museum has great pleasure in announcing in this special supplement of its BULLETIN a gift from its President, Robert W. de Forest, and Mrs. de Forest, of unusual munificence, unique character, and high importance in broadening its sphere of educational influence. This is the addition to its building of a wing to be devoted entirely to American art of the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Early Republican periods. The plans for the structure have been prepared by Grosvenor Atterbury in collaboration with the Museum authorities, and work upon it has already begun. It will be a three-story building measuring about 81 feet by 60 feet, standing by itself in what will ultimately be a large courtyard of the Museum, connected by a passageway with the north end of the Morgan Wing, with which it will form an L, and will contain eighteen exhibition rooms, mostly of a small and domestic character befitting the objects to be installed in them.

The plans for the installation and the wealth of material which the Museum already has awaiting such an opportunity of display are discussed in the articles that follow, and a study of these will show that this material is not confined to any one locality or section of the country, but extends in its range practically from the northern to the southern extremities of the thirteen original states. Thus an oppor-

tunity will be afforded for a comprehensive survey of the evolution as well as the varying characteristics of early American art such as hitherto has not been possible in any one place. And when this collection, worthily installed, is ready to be shown to the public its interest will be found to be by no means confined to sentiment or history. It is its artistic value, especially to Americans, that has inspired Mr. de Forest, Mr. Halsey, and those who have aided them in bringing it together, to make this an outstanding feature of the Museum. It will teach the present and future generations of our people that the men to whose struggles they owe the foundation of the American Commonwealth were refined in their taste and by no means indifferent to beauty. Though for the most part they neglected the arts of painting and sculpture, their instinct found its expression in the houses they built and the furniture they bought for daily use. Their builders and craftsmen were endowed with a fine sense of line, proportion, and the proper limits of decoration. Their work is never vulgar. When they borrowed from older styles they chose the best, and put into that something of their own individuality. They and their patrons were in close sympathy with each other, and we have only recently begun to recognize that the result of this sympathy is full of significance for us.

May the generosity of our donors stimulate this recognition and the appreciation of our rich inheritance!

E. R.